

INTRODUCTION

The Church in Nigeria, and indeed across the globe, once stood on unshakable foundations of truth, holiness, and reverence for God. Yet these foundations have been eroded by a tide of counterfeit Christianity. Like a creeping shadow, deception has infiltrated the sanctuary, distorting the light of the Gospel. What was once the sacred ground of prayer and worship has been turned into a den of thieves, consumed by greed and corruption! The pulpit, meant to declare the unchanging counsel of God, now too often caters to the whimsical cravings of men. The result is a Church unrecognizable to the apostles and prophets, a house once full of glory now filled with compromise.

This book is a trumpet blast, a cry to arms, a wake-up cry to a slumbering Church. The Lord Himself declares, ***“Judgment must begin at the house of God”*** (1 Peter 4:17). If this is true and it is, then it is time for the Church to examine herself with trembling. Are we standing on the foundation of Christ, or have we built upon the sinking sand of human wisdom? Are we walking the narrow path of discipleship, or have we joined the multitudes on the broad road of obliteration?

In Nigeria, the Church was once known for her holiness and fervent faithfulness. There was a time when preachers spoke with the fire of heaven, and their words pierced hearts like arrows. Tears of repentance flowed freely at the altars, and lives were transformed by the power of God. But where is that fire now? Where are the voices crying in the wilderness, “Prepare ye the way of the Lord”? What has happened to the Gospel that once turned sinners into saints and shook the gates of hell? This is not a lament for the past but a confrontation of the present. The Church must reckon with her sins, her greed, her worldliness, her complacency and return to the old paths.

“Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls” (Jeremiah 6:16). But will the Church heed this call, or will she say as in the days of old, “We will not walk therein”?

The chapters of this book will not spare the guilty-no! whether pastors, prophets, or the people in the pews. let this sink in. This is not a time for soft words or gentle rebukes. The stakes are eternal, the battle is fierce, and the King is at the door. The focus will be sharp, the tone fiery, and the message uncompromising -read on if you dare. It will expose the counterfeit gospels, the false prophets, and the worldly doctrines that have infiltrated the Church. But it will also point to the way of restoration: repentance, holiness, and a return to the true Gospel of Jesus Christ.

To the pastors: The call is to preach the Word in season and out of season, with no regard for the applause or rejection of men. To the prophets: The call is to speak truth, even when it burns. To the people of God: The call is to stand firm, endure to the end, and overcome the flood of deception sweeping through the land. This is a summon to return to the Lord with weeping, fasting, and mourning, for the time is short, and the day of the Lord is near.

The purpose of this book is not to condemn but to awaken. The Church must be shaken before the world can be reached. She must be purified before she can shine as a city on a hill. Let every reader approach these pages with humility, for they carry the weight of eternity. This is not a casual read; it is an appeal to action, a summons to the battlefield, and a trumpet declaring, “Prepare to meet thy God!” (Amos 4:12).

The King is coming, and His reward is with Him. Will the Church be ready? Will you be ready? Let these words linger in your heart as you turn the pages: ***“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne”*** (Revelation 3:21). The era of dead works is over. The time for repentance is now. The time to prepare is here.

May this book ignite the fire of holiness and truth in every heart that reads it.

Chapter One

The True Gospel vs. Another Gospel

"For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus...ye might well bear with him" (2 Corinthians 11:4).

It was not long ago that the Church in Nigeria was known far and wide as a citadel of holiness. Men trembled at the preaching of the Word. The altars were soaked with tears, not of greed or pretense, but of repentance and brokenness. Saints walked in the fear of God, not decorated with overly showy or extravagant adornments of this perishing world but with the garments of righteousness. The Gospel preached in those days was not diluted by the sweet poison of compromise. It was the unadulterated Gospel of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ, crucified, risen, and soon returning.

Those were the days when sermons pierced the soul like a two-edged sword. Preachers were not entertainers, and pulpits were not stages. Men like *Joseph Babalola & Pastor William. F. Kumuyi*, each in their time, stood as burning lamps, crying out against sin and urging the people to flee from the wrath to come. Their voices thundered with eternal truth, *"Be ye holy; for I am holy"* (1 Peter 1:16). The early Nigerian Church was a garden of deep commitment, a city set on a hill that could not be hid. But alas, what do we see today?

"For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus..." How perfectly this Scripture captures the condition of the Church in Nigeria today! Another Jesus is being proclaimed, and with him, another gospel. It is not the Jesus of Calvary who is lifted up; it is a Jesus who demands no cross, no self-denial, no death to sin. It is a Jesus who offers crowns without thorns and glory without suffering. It is a gospel tailored to please itching ears, a gospel stripped of its power to convict and transform.

The Nigerian Church, once a sanctuary of truth, has become a marketplace of deception. The pulpits that once rang with fiery exhortations to live righteously now laden with empty promises of prosperity and false miracles. Where is the holiness that once distinguished the people of God? Where is the trembling at His Word? The Nigerian church have exchanged the gold of godliness for the glitter of this world. The Bride of Christ has become a harlot, selling her purity for the momentary pleasures of Egypt.

Paul's warning in (*2 Corinthians 11:4*) was not penned in vain. Even in his day, false teachers arose, proclaiming a gospel that was no gospel at all. They came with eloquence and charisma, drawing disciples after themselves. How much more today! The Church in Nigeria is plagued with preachers who peddle the Word of God for profit, they assassinate His character. They are not shepherds; they are hirelings. They care not for the sheep but for their own gain, they are adorned with, intellectual sophistry, emotional manipulation, spiritual pretence, philosophical deception, rhetorical finesse, appearance of wisdom, false humility, and the charm of modern trends, laced with the poison of a viper, adorned in deceptive sweetness, dripping with subtle lies, veiled in half-truths, tainted with hidden malice, designed to ensnare the unsuspecting, wielding cunning psychology, and employing the dark arts of influence and control, but their message is deprived of the supernatural power of Christ.

They preach another Jesus.

This "Jesus" has become the mascot of a gospel of greed that dominates much of the Nigerian Church. He is presented as a celestial banker, eager to fill your account with wealth. His message is no longer "Take up your cross and follow me" but "Sow a seed and receive a hundredfold." The faithful Savior who calls us to forsake all for His sake has been replaced by a counterfeit who offers earthly riches and temporal success. This is not the Jesus who walked the dusty roads of Galilee. This is not the Jesus who endured the shame of the cross. This is not the Jesus of the Bible.

Beloved, this is not the Jesus who was born in a manger, who lived a life of humility, who had no place to lay His head, who dined with sinners and outcasts, who washed the feet of His disciples, who rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, who rejected worldly power and fame, who taught that the last shall be first, who gave His life as a ransom for many, who prayed for His enemies, who was betrayed for thirty pieces of silver, who bore the scorn of the crowd without retaliation, who chose a crown of thorns over a crown of gold, and who laid down His life in obedience to the Father.

When did the Church in Nigeria begin to drink this bitter cup? Was it not when we abandoned the foundation laid by our fathers in the faith? They preached holiness; we preach convenience. They proclaimed the narrow way; we celebrate the broad road. They laboured for souls; we labour for status. Where they wept, we laughed. Where they fasted, we feasted. They stood for truth, even unto death; we negotiate truth for acceptance. They carried their cross daily; we display ours as just symbols. They longed for eternity; we are consumed with the present. They were men of the secret place; we are men of the public stage. They trembled at the Word of God; we twist it to fit our desires. They feared God above men; we fear men above God. They sought revival through tears; we manufacture excitement through techniques and dare to call it revival. They rejoiced in persecution for righteousness' sake; we retreat at the slightest opposition. They laid their treasures in heaven; we hoard our treasures on earth. They ministered in the power of the Spirit; we operate in the power of the flesh. They gloried in the cross; we glory in material gain.

Where they feasted on the Bread of Life, we feast on the vanities of the world. Where they laboured in prayer through the night, we slumber in our comforts. Where they mourned for the sins of the nation, we celebrate its decadence. Where they proclaimed the solemnity of God's holiness, we invite comedians to entertain the flock. Where they gave their lives for the Gospel, we secure ours at all costs. Where they saw the fields white for harvest, we see opportunities for personal advancement. Where they knelt in humility,

we rise in arrogance. Where they bore the scars of Christ, we display the marks of self-indulgence. Where they stood firm against the schemes of the devil, we collabourate with him under the guise of progress. Where they sought God's face, we seek men's applause. Where they walked in brokenness, we strut in pride. Where they laid foundations of sacrifice, we build towers of ambition. Where they feasted on the simplicity of faith, we gorge on the complexity of compromise. Where they sowed in tears, we party in ignorance. Where they endured trials with joy, we avoid them with excuses. Where they fixed their eyes on the unseen, we are blinded by the seen.

How long will we remain at ease in Zion? The contrast is profound and damning. We have indeed departed from the ancient paths. But let us consider the consequences of this departure. What has this counterfeit gospel produced? Is the Church in Nigeria a beacon of light in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation? Or has it become a stumbling block? Where is the fruit of repentance? Where is the evidence of lives transformed by the power of God? Instead, the land is flooded with the works of the flesh: immorality, corruption, and pride. Is this the testimony of a people who have known the living God?

"But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed."... (Galatians 1:8-9).

This is no light matter. To alter the Gospel is to tamper with the very power of God unto salvation (*Romans 1:16*). It is to lead men astray, not to eternal life, but to eternal destruction. The preachers of this false gospel may gain the applause of men, but they will face the wrath of God. The crowds that flock to their ministries may swell their egos, but they do not deceive the Judge of all the earth.

What of the people who follow these deceivers? They are like sheep led to the slaughter. They are promised heaven but delivered to hell. They are taught to pursue blessings, not the Blessed One. They are told to seek miracles, not the Miracle Worker. Their faith is in men, not in God. They call themselves Christians, but they do not

know Christ. They are “ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth” (2 *Timothy* 3:7).

Oh, that the Church in Nigeria would wake up from her slumber! Oh, that we would cast away this counterfeit gospel and return to the true Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ! The hour is late, and the Judge stands at the door. We must repent of our spiritual adultery and seek the Lord while He may be found, and call upon Him with a clear voice while He is still near. Let us once again preach Christ crucified, let us call men to repentance, not to riches. Let us exalt holiness, not pleasure-seeking. Let us proclaim the narrow way, not the broad road.

The blood of countless souls cries out from the ground, pleading with us to return to the truth. The world watches the Church in Nigeria, expecting to see the light of the Gospel, but what do they see? Hypocrisy, greed, and compromise. We must arise and shine, for our light has come (*Isaiah* 60:1). But that light is not our own; it is the light of Christ. It is the light that shines through the truth of the Gospel.

Dear reader, do you bear the marks of the true Gospel in your life? Have you been crucified with Christ, or do you still live for yourself? Is your faith anchored in the unchanging Word of God, or is it swayed by the winds of popular opinion? The time has come to examine ourselves, whether we be in the faith (2 *Corinthians* 13:5). For in the end, it will not matter how many sermons we have heard, how many miracles we have witnessed, or how much wealth we have accumulated. What will matter is whether we have truly known Jesus, the Jesus of the Bible, the Jesus of the true Gospel.

The question is urgent: how did we fall from such heights? How did the Church in Nigeria, once ablaze with holiness, become lukewarm and lifeless? History bears witness that whenever the pure Gospel is compromised, the enemy sows tares among the wheat. The Nigerian Church was not always as it is today, and you, dear reader, can bear me witness. There was a time when the fire of revival swept across the land, consuming sin and igniting passion for righteousness.